



Old Fletton Urban District Council.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

upon the

Sanitary Condition of the District  
during the year 1953.





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## To the Old Fletton Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

The report has been constructed on similar lines as last year's report, as requested by the Ministry of Health.

### STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health ..... F. D. F. STEEDE, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector ..... S. HAIGH, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
(Resigned 30th September, 1953)

L. DEARDEN, A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.  
(Commenced 11th November, 1953)

The general health of the district is very satisfactory, and this is borne out by an examination of the vital statistics for the year, which reveal no disturbing features. The birth rate, although showing a fractional increase, is still a little below that for the remainder of England and Wales, but the death rate, while showing a slight rise on last year, is still very low. I again publish a table showing actual numbers and rates of deaths of infants under one year of age over the past 5 years which helps to correct any hasty conclusions drawn from insufficient data, though the rate this year is an improvement.

The delay which continues to be experienced in gaining admission for the aged in distress to homes for aged persons, or to hospital, has given cause for a great deal of anxiety at times during the year.

Housing progress throughout has again been very satisfactory and will enable us to consider undertaking slum clearance seriously in the not too distant future.

The alteration to the sewage treatment works after an initial period of slow progress, now shows prospect of being finished by late 1954 or early 1955.

Plans to improve water distribution to this district and to the adjoining Rural District of Norman Cross have been forwarded to the Ministry for sanction.

Food hygiene in the district has not been given as much attention as one would have wished for, owing to pressure of work on the single Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, but the contemplated appointment of an assistant Sanitary Inspector will enable more attention to be devoted to this very important subject in the future.

In conclusion I should like again to express my sincere thanks to the Members of the Council for the kindness and consideration they have shown to me, and also to all their officers for their unfailing help and co-operation.



STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area .....	3029 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1953) .....	9141
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1953 .....	2623
Rateable Value, 31/12/53 .....	£49,311
Value of Penny Rate, 31/3/1953 .....	£185

LIVE BIRTHS

Birth Rate per 1000 population .....	14.5
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STILL BIRTHS

Rate per 1000 total births .....	50.0
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DEATHS

Death rate per 1000 population .....	10.0
Deaths from Puerperal Causes per 1000 total (live and still) births .....	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births .....	30.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	30.3
Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „ .....	Nil

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Actual Number of Deaths	5	1	6	7	4
Rates All Infants Per 1,000 Live Births	39.4	8.1	36.4	53.4	30.1

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	11
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .....	Nil

RATES

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 LiveBirths
	Live Births	Still Births	Crude Death Rate	Stand- ardized Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Old Fletton	14.5	0.8	10.0	10.7	30.1
England & Wales	15.5	0.35	11.4	11.4	26.8

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures):—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.	48	43	91
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	—	2	2
2. Tuberculosis, other .....	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease .....	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections .....	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—
8. Measles .....	—	—	—
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases .....	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	—	1	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	1	—	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	—	—	—
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	—	—	—
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms .....	5	3	8
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	—	1	1
16. Diabetes .....	1	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	9	7	16
18. Coronary disease, angina .....	6	2	8
19. Hypertension with heart disease .....	—	1	1
20. Other heart disease .....	10	13	23
21. Other circulatory disease .....	1	2	3
22. Influenza .....	1	3	4
23. Pneumonia .....	—	1	1
24. Bronchitis .....	3	2	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system .....	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum .....	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea .....	—	—	—
28. Nephritis & nephrosis .....	1	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .....	2	—	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations .....	—	—	—
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases .....	5	3	8
33. Motor vehicle accidents .....	1	—	1
34. All other accidents .....	1	1	2
35. Suicide .....	1	1	2
36. Homicide & operations of war .....	—	—	—

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### (a) Laboratory Facilities :

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, or by the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

### (b) Ambulance Facilities :

- (1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.
- (2) For non-infectious and accident cases the area is covered by the ambulance service of the Soke of Peterborough County Council under an agreement with Huntingdon County Council, which is the Local Health Authority responsible. This arrangement is working satisfactorily.

### (c) Nursing in the Home :

Nursing in the district is carried on by two qualified nurses employed by the Huntingdon County Council. Both nurses are certified midwives and attend the majority of maternity cases under the Domiciliary Midwifery Scheme.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

### (d) Clinics and Treatment Centres:

Infant Welfare work in the district is still carried out by the Fletton and District Infant and Child Welfare Association by arrangement with Huntingdon County Council. The Infant Welfare Clinic has weekly sessions on Tuesdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

The following additional Clinics are provided :—

School Clinic

(Minor Ailment)	.....	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton, Every Wednesday 10—12.
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Eyes	.....	..... London Road Clinic. By Appt.
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Dental Clinic	.....	..... High Street, Old Fletton.
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Tuberculosis	.....	..... 28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough, Every Monday 2—4 p.m. By Appt.
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Orthopaedic	.....	.....	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, 2nd Tuesday in the month. By Appt.
Nose, Throat & Ear Clinic	.....	.....	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, Every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appt.
Venereal Diseases	.....	.....	28 Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough, Women Only—Wednesday 5.30— 7 p.m. Friday 10.30—12 noon. Men Only—Monday 5.30—7 p.m. Thursday 5.30—7 p.m.
Ante-Natal	.....	.....	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton, 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the Month, 2—4 p.m.

(e) **Hospitals :**

- (1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Huntingdon.
- (2) General hospital services including Out-patient facilities are provided at Peterborough Memorial Hospital.
- (3) Provision is made for Maternity Cases at The Gables, Peterborough, or the Maternity Hospital, Paxton Park.



TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SIR,

I beg to submit my Report for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

## NUISANCES.

Abated as a result of informal action	.....	.....	.....	30
Abated as a result of Statutory action	.....	.....	.....	Nil

Analysis	No.	No. of Inspections
Premises	26	56
Smoke Pollution	2	6
Accumulation of Refuse	Nil	Nil
Foul ditches etc.	2	4
Drains	Nil	Nil
Dampness	Nil	Nil
Animals	Nil	Nil

Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)	No. established	.....	Nil
	No. of inspections	.....	Nil
Water Closets	New provided	.....	73
Ashbins	New provided	.....	100

## HOUSING.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

1	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.....	.....	30
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	.....	.....	45
2	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (inc. under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	.....	.....	Nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	.....	.....	Nil
3	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.....	.....	Nil
4	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.....	.....	5

During the year ended 31st December, 1953, the Council completed 67 houses and 3 were erected by private enterprise.

The rate of building should increase to its maximum in 1954, when we may expect completions to be handed over on the Southfields and Chapel Street Estates simultaneously.

## DISINFESTATION.

No. of houses infested	.....	(a) Council—Nil.	(b) Private—Nil
No. of houses disinfested	.....	(a) Council—Nil.	(b) Private—Nil

## DISINFECTION.

Cases of infectious diseases reported	.....	7	No. of inspections	.....	14
Rooms disinfected (a) Tuberculosis	.....	4	(b) Others	.....	3
Schools disinfected	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

## WATER SUPPLY.

The source of supply is from the deep wells of Peterborough Council, from whom water is purchased in bulk. The pressure available still gives cause for anxiety at times of high demand, and in an endeavour to alleviate this, and at the same time to improve the position of neighbouring authorities, discussions are in progress with the Council's Consulting Engineers.

Samples taken for analysis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
„ condemned	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Wells closed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Public supply substituted for well or pond	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Work commenced during the year on extensions to the Sewage Works. These have been necessitated by the rapid development taking place in this district, and the agreement whereby the sewage from five parishes in the Rural District of Norman Cross will be accepted for treatment at this Council's works. In an endeavour to reduce the capital cost of works the Ministry have (1) eliminated the sludge digester, (2) increased the number of sludge beds and (3) reduced the number of percolating filters by making provision for recirculation. It remains to be seen if, in fact, the number of beds will be able to deal with the sludge load.

## REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The period of collection varied during the year due to staffing difficulties, extending to almost a month at one time. The delay was accentuated by increased mechanical troubles on the present refuse vehicle which is reaching the end of its scheduled life, and is in any

case now too small for its work. The rapidly increasing number of premises and the open lay-out of the new estates entails a considerable increase in the number of bins and the average time taken for emptying each bin. Whilst the two factors cannot be changed a reduction in the number of journeys to the Peterborough Tip would make a material improvement, and it is hoped that when a new vehicle is purchased this factor of size will be borne in mind.

## FOOD & DRUGS.

Food inspection and supervision were continued on the same basis as in previous years, but this important branch of Public Health work should receive the increased attention it requires if an Assistant Sanitary inspector is appointed next year.

The number of food shops in the district, by type, is as follows :-

Butchers	.....	.....	8
Fish (Wet and Fried)			6
Grocers	.....	.....	27
Bakers	.....	.....	2

and fifty-two inspections of these premises were carried out.

Several shops deal in more than one type of foodstuff, and in these cases I have taken the predominating food.

Fifteen shops are retailing Ice Cream. There are no ice-cream Manufacturers in the district, the majority sold being supplied by the larger firms.

The small quantities of food condemned were disposed of by burying on a controlled tip.

## MILK SUPPLY.

No. of Retailers' Premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Total No. of inspections	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12

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Total Legal Proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc.	.....	.....	Nil
Convictions	.....	.....	Nil

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1937.

Factories	.....	.....	.....	Total number on Register (including bakehouses)	21
				No. in which nuisances abated	Nil
Bakehouses	.....	.....	.....	No. on register	3
				No. in which nuisances abated	Nil
Homework	.....	.....	.....	No. of outworkers	1
Legal Proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc.	.....	.....	.....		Nil
				Convictions	Nil

### SHOPS AND OFFICES :

No. of shops inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45
Total No. of visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	72
No. requiring additional heating	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
No. requiring additional ventilation	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
No. requiring additional sanitary conveniences	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

L. DEARDEN,  
Sanitary Inspector.



The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1953.

DISEASE	AGE												Total Deaths
	under 1 year	1 — 2	2 — 3	3 — 4	4 — 5	5 — 10	10 — 15	15 — 20	20 — 35	35 — 45	45 — 65	65 & upwards	Cases admitted to Hospital
	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
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	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL													

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The year has been a very satisfactory one with very little infectious disease: For yet another year there has been no case of diphtheria, and for which the efficiency of our immunisation methods are the most important single preventive factor. No effort must be spared to keep this fact before the eyes of the public.

The one case of Poliomyelitis notified was non-paralytic.

### Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 .....	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 .....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 .....	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 & upwards.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:—	3	3	—	—	—	1	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

F. D. F. STEEDE,

Medical Officer of Health.



